(c) whether accident rate was more; and

(d) whether the causes of the accidents have been analysed ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) The exact number of MIG-21 planes cannot be divulged in the interest of national security.

(b) to (d) The details of the MIG aircraft which crashed, along with the causes of accident between 2000-2002 are given in the Statement. (*See* below).

The accident rate of 2001-2002 had significantly gone down in comparison to the previous year.

***Statement***

*Details of MIG 21 Accidents during 2000-2002*

| Year | BH | HE(A) | TD | HE(S) | TOTAL | RATE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-2001 | 02 | 06 | 02 | 01 | 11 | 2.81 |
| 2001-2002 | 01 | 03 | 03 | — | 07 | 1.69 |

BH : Bird Hit
HE(A) : Human Error (Aircrew)
TD : Technical Defect
HE(S) : Human Error (Servicing)

**Purchase of Inferior Spares/Equipments for MIG-21**

789. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India purchased second hand (reconditioned) engines, spares and other equipments of MIG 21;

(b) whether MIG spares came under cloud as two planes crashed in a single day in September, 2002; and

(c) if not, whether the cause of the crash probed and analysed by the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. officials ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Air Force has purchased reconditioned engines for MIG 21 after thorough scrutiny of their health by a team of experts. However, no second-hand spares for MI- 21 have been purchased by the IAF.

(b) No, Sir. As per preliminary investigation, the said crashes of two MIG 21 were due to malfunction of main fuel pump and not due to spares.

(c) Exact causes of accidents are under joint investigation by specialists from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Indian Air Force, Centre for Military Air Worthiness Certification (CEMILAC) and Director General Aeronautics Quality and Assurance (DGAQA).

**Indo-France joint exercises**

790. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that France will conduct combat exercises with the Indian Air Force in Gwalior next year;

(b) if so, the number of exercises likely to be performed ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Air Force has recently been trained by the Air Forces of some other countries; and

(d) if so, what are the names of such countries ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One.

(c) Some IAF personnel have been trained by the air forces of friendly countries on reciprocal basis, as part of international defence cooperation.

(d) The major countries with which IAF has such defence cooperation programmes are USA, UK, France, Russia, Australia etc.

**Benefits of Indo-US joint military exercises**

791. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indo-US military exercises have taken place during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits derived by our defence forces therefrom;

(c) whether these exercises also covered combating nuclear war;

(d) whether such joint exercises have also been carried out recently with Pakistan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?